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Model
Robin Harris
makes a
dazzling
"Color Splash"
as she saunters
onstage during
the 46th annual
showing of the
**EBONY Fashion
Fair** in
Chicago
ON PAGE 12.

Cover photos
courtesy The
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▲ **BUDDY GUY GETS NATIONAL HONOR:** National Medal of the Arts recipient George "Buddy" Guy (2nd, l) enjoys festivities in the White House Oval Office after he received the honor from President Bush along with other honorees (l-r) National Symphony Orchestra conductor Leonard Slatkin, dancer Suzanne Farrell, author Beverly Cleary and director Ron Howard. The Medal of Arts, established by Congress in 1984, is awarded to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the creation, growth and support of the arts in the United States. Guy, 67, was born in Lettsworth, LA, and began to play professionally in and around Baton Rouge in the early 1950s. The blues guitar legend has been credited with helping to move the blues into the postmodern era.

Blacks Beginning To Bridge Wealth Gap: Study

Over the past 10 years, African-Americans have begun "to close the wealth gap with the rest of Americans," according to a study conducted by the Consumer Federation of America and BET.com based on data from the Federal Reserve.

From 1989 to 2001, the ratio of median Black household wealth to median U.S. household wealth rose from 9.1 percent to 22.1 percent and the net wealth of the typical African-

American household rose from \$5,919 in 1989 to \$19,010 in 2001, an increase of 221 percent, according to an analysis of the most recent Federal Reserve Survey of Consumer Finances data by Ohio State University professor Catherine Montalto.

Low- to middle-income Americans—people earning between \$20,000 and \$80,000—saw their personal wealth rise by 23 percent from 1995 to 2001 mainly because of in-

creases in home equity, according to a report by the Consumer Federation and Provident Financial.

But Blacks still lag in net wealth, says Stephen Brobeck, executive director for the Consumer Federation, who adds that the lower rate of homeownership is the key factor causing the financial gap to widen between Blacks and Whites.

According to the Census Bureau, U.S. homeownership is at an all-time high of 68 percent, but minorities still lag behind. In the third quarter of

2003, 48 percent of Blacks owned a home, compared with 76 percent of all Whites.

Experts are worried Black families aren't planning far enough into the future.

"The biggest barrier to homeownership other than income is pessimism," Brobeck said. "And this isn't just a problem for minorities. There are a lot of people who just don't believe they can save enough. But they can do it even if they start with \$5 a month."

▼ **PRAYER FOR BETTER CARE:** Rainbow/PUSH Coalition founder the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. prays with civilian nurse Aquila Parker (c) and Maj. Cindy Leavitt at Fort Stewart, GA, after he toured a medical clinic the U.S. Army recently opened there for sick and injured reservists. Jackson's tour came following complaints by infirm reservists of having to wait weeks, even months, for treatment while they live in barracks without air conditioning or indoor toilets. Fort Stewart's hospital became bogged down with a flood of patients after 16,500 active-duty troops from the 3rd Infantry Division returned from Iraq at the end of summer. Though the Army has since moved many to nearby hotels and Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah as well as opened a new clinic at Fort Stewart, Jackson said the changes came too late. He said he plans to appeal to Congress and President Bush to allocate funding for better military housing and expanded medical facilities.



This One



AL16-7TG-SKC1

TICKER TAPE

by Simeon Booker, Washington Bureau Chief

Confidential: Are civil rights groups experiencing a downturn in contributions and memberships due to the current economic conditions? This is the question quietly being floated in Black communities. At a recent Virginia NAACP conference, speakers told how their state organization had plunged from 40,000 to 20,000 members in the last decade and urged that new avenues of support be found. One direction: soliciting help from hip-hop organizations, currently the most popular and prosperous moneymakers on inner-city streets....Remember to help the homeless and unemployed on Thanksgiving—Gathering food for her 32nd Thanksgiving dinner for D.C. homeless, the Rev. **Imogene Stewart** credited Secretary of State **Colin Powell** for being one of her

first and staunchest backers. The minister known as “Georgia Peach” is proud that because of him and other VIPs, she has received no federal aid for her much-publicized grassroots project...Democratic Party Chairman **Terry McAuliffe** is being blamed for downplaying the effort of D.C. citizens to sponsor the nation’s first 2004 election primary on Jan. 13. The citizens want to highlight the inability of D.C. representatives to vote on Capitol Hill...Black Caucus Chair Baltimore Rep. **Elijah Cummings** was quick to demand that ex-POW **Shoshana Johnson**, who was shot in both legs in Iraqi combat, be given full disability as extended to fellow GI **Jessica Lynch**. A Panamanian-American, Johnson visited her former home and was given a welcome.

National Headliners

Former N.Y. Times Managing Editor **Gerald Boyd** is being considered for a Columbia University teaching job....Retiring Berkeley, CA, City Manager **Weldon Rucker** was praised by Rep. **Barbara Lee** on the House floor for contributions in his 31-year municipal career....the Rev. **James Terrell**’s Second Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., celebrated its 155th anniversary. Having started 14 years before D.C. slaves were freed, the church served as a station on the Underground Railroad...The first two Blacks running for statewide Mississippi



Colin Powell

posts, **Barbara Blackman** for lieutenant governor and **Gary Anderson** for treasurer, lost in their races after some leaders spread the word that “Blacks don’t have anything to vote for.” In Louisiana, Democratic New Orleans Mayor **Ray Nagin** shook up voters when he accepted a tee shirt and endorsed Republican **Bobby Jindal** in the governor’s race.



Gerald Boyd



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NATIONAL REPORT

► **IN COMMAND:** New Mexico Military Institute Regimental Commander John White, 19, calls out orders during a recent Veterans Day ceremony at the Roswell, NM,-based military academy. White is the first Black to attain the rank of regimental commander, the highest cadet position at the 112-year-old coed college prep high school and two-year junior college whose 1,000 student/cadets include students from around the world. His responsibilities are "to train and develop the corps into an environment that promotes educational value, self-discipline and individual development." A sophomore at the college, White, from Houston, says he plans to attend an Ivy League school and major in public policy.



▼ **THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AND STILL DANCING:** Arthur Mitchell, co-founder of the acclaimed Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH), gives his dance students a pre-performance pep talk in New York. Founded in 1969 by Mitchell and the late Karel Shook, Dance Theatre of Harlem kicked off its 35th anniversary celebration this year. Mitchell, an artistic director, educator, choreographer and dancer, made history in 1955 as the first Black man to become a permanent member of a major ballet company. In 1968, inspired by the life and death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mitchell began teaching ballet to Harlem children in a church basement to give them the



opportunities that had been given to him. In 1969, he and his teacher-mentor Shook formally founded and incorporated the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Nearly 35 years later, DTH includes a world-renowned dance company, the accredited Dance Theatre of Harlem School, and an arts education and community outreach program.

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*Tinika Hampton
turns heads in a gown
with a Spanish flair
and matching stole by
Zang Toi, New York.*

Color Splash

A MAJOR CROWD-PLEASER IN CHICAGO

The fashion tradition continues. Each year one of Chicago's signature highlights is when the EBONY Fashion Fair blows into the Windy City.

This year, *Color Splash* made its mark in the grand way that audiences have grown accustomed. The

world's largest traveling fashion show soaked the eager patrons with tantalizing designs and extravagant creations during its visit to the Arie

Crown Theatre at McCormick Place.

Knit, leather, denim and couture creations were paraded down the runway by the leggy models in



▲ Commentator Jada Collins shines in this beaded-fringed gown designed by Douglas Hannant, New York. Robin Harris (c) wears a short sweater dress with matching cap from Missoni, Milan. Arynnetta Northcutt (r) shows off a denim ensemble embroidered in pink silk thread from Christian Lacroix, Paris.

the form of gowns, pantsuits and ensembles that displayed an array of splashy colors. Jeans made a major



◀ Corene Stewart models chiffon pants and a shimmering top from Cassandra Stone, Chicago. Deonna Pinkerton (c) wears a wool knit full-length coat over fur-trimmed skirt and matching bodysuit designed by Laura Biagiotti, Milan. The hat is by Kokin, New York. Norman Scales makes the ladies go wild when he steps out in this Givenchy blazer worn with contrasting slacks and shirt.

debut this year in leisure wear and evening wear designs.

Women and men alike caught a



▲ Lisa Haynes models a chiffon dress from Jovani, New York. Jaman Manns (c) struts the runway in a striped pantsuit with patterned coat designed by Jean Louis Scherrer, Paris. The hat is from Erreuno, Milan.

► Victoria Bowers looks fierce in these leather pants with wide eyelet-studded belt with a coordinated sweater blouse and dashing fedora by Erreuno, Milan.

Katrina Lyles is chic in this denim jacket trimmed in rhinestones and worn with rhinestone pants designed by Thierry Mugler, Paris.



Nikisha Bolden models a Laura Biagiotti, Milan, cape sweater over a sequined camisole with gemmed miniskirt and sleek tights.



Rodney High is an EBONY man in a striped suit designed by London's Vivienne Westwood.



glimpse of the latest in fashion for the office, out on the town, lounging around the house or basking on the beach.



▲ *Thomas Frazier, American Airlines / American Eagle prizewinner, is congratulated by Mrs. Eunice W. Johnson (c), producer and director of the EBONY Fashion Fair, along with (l-r) Dr. Rubye Taylor Drake, Chicago Inter-Alumni Council president, Priscilla Stratten, assistant area development director of the United Negro College Fund, and Dr. Jylla Moore Foster, general chairperson of the Chicago EBONY Fashion Fair.*

The 46th year of the show was celebrated by the local media with offers of premier seating at the Chicago

show, limo service and dinner with the media and a chat with some of the models during intermission.

▼ *Taylor Drake, Foster and Stratten are joined by fellow Chicago committee members (l-r), Pearlene Carter, Dana Simone, Phyllis Banks, Fred Carter, Shannah Traylor and Patricia Burns, following the success of the 46th annual EBONY Fashion Fair.*





▲ Louise Chester (c), the longtime highest ticket-seller, receives best wishes from her daughter, Carolyn Chutanni (l), granddaughters Sheila (2nd, l) and Brittany (r), Dr. Woody T. White, vice president of Field Operations, Midwest Region, and Pamela Morris, Mayor's Office of Special Events and air personality / music director of Chicago's WWHN 1510 AM. Chester also celebrated a birthday the same day as the event.

The Chicago Inter-Alumni Council/United Negro College Fund (UNCF) sponsored this year's event to benefit UNCF.

▼ Gregory McWilson (c) and his wife, Darlene, are congratulated by WVAZ-FM (V-103) Chicago afternoon radio personality Ramonski Luv (2nd, l) and his wife, Ronni Wade (l), along with models Hampton and High. McWilson was the EBONY Fashion Fair winner of a V-103 radio contest to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the show.



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Six Ways To Celebrate A Stress-Free Holiday

Tis the season to be jolly, but the holidays can bring out the true Grinch in us. Who feels like spreading mirth and cheer after shopping in crowded stores, dealing with psychotic drivers and slaving away endless hours cooking, cleaning and decorating? And while you're busy with holiday chores, you still have deal with daily demands like work, family, school and maintaining a social life.

All that stress wears down your body, mind and spirit and can trigger a major bout of seasonal burnout. But before you say "bah humbug" to the holidays, try these six tips to relieve the strain of the season:

1. Start early. Whether it's tracking down the hot toy of the season, booking flight reservations or defrosting a 20-pound turkey, prevent that last-minute crunch by starting holiday chores early. And the earlier, the better. Pull out the date planner and set daily and weekly timelines for important holiday tasks. Also, consider shopping for next year's gifts and decorations at the end of this season. The crowds won't be as bad and stores usually offer huge discounts on merchandise.

2. Shop off-peak hours. Avoid stressful holiday crowds and traffic by shopping during off-peak hours. Early morning when businesses first open or right after lunch during the work week are typically peaceful shopping times.

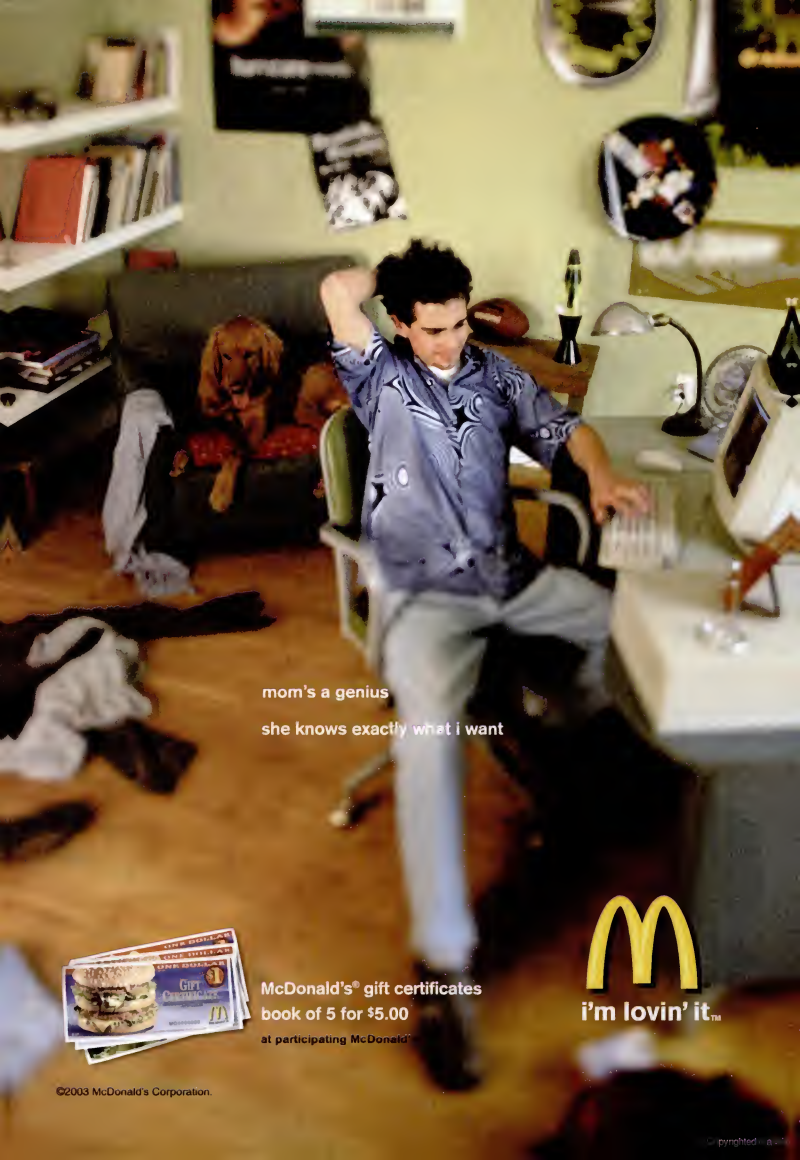
3. Get help. Even Santa enlists an army of elves and a team of reindeer

to help him deliver all those toys—and he's mythical! So you shouldn't be too proud to spread out those holiday tasks. Be creative. Have a chore grab-bag. Write tasks on slips of paper, toss in a bowl and have family members take turns drawing chores. Throw a tree-trimming party or host a gift-wrapping girls' night. Forget cooking a huge feast and hire a caterer, plan a potluck or dine out.

4. Chill out. Relaxing just 15 minutes each day can rejuvenate a stressed body and mind, health experts say. When stress hits, find a quiet place to calm down. Breathe deeply and slowly. Close your eyes and count to 10. Imagine that you're in a happy, peaceful place.

5. Spread goodwill. Donating your time to charitable causes this holiday season can make you feel good and put your own problems in perspective. Donate toys and clothing to the needy. Volunteer at a homeless shelter. Visit the sick and elderly in hospitals and nursing homes. Even sending out greeting cards, calling an old friend or spending a day with a relative can bring a smile to someone's face, especially your own.

6. Treat yourself. While you're spreading goodwill, don't forget to spread some to yourself. Indulge in a soothing massage at a posh day spa. Treat yourself to a night on the town. Put a cool holiday gift for yourself under the tree. Be good to you and you'll have a good holiday.



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This Week In Black History

November 27, 1989–

► U.S. Air Force Col. **Frederick D. Gregory** became the first Black commander of a space shuttle mission when he performed a secret military mission aboard the *Discovery* on this day. Born on January 7, 1941, in Washington, D.C., he graduated from an area high school to earn a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1964, and a master's degree in information systems from George Washington University in 1977. Selected as an astronaut in 1978, he had an Air Force record that included logging nearly 7,000 hours in 50 types of planes, including 550 combat missions over Vietnam. He retired as a colonel in 1993. Gregory, who logged more than 455 hours in Earth orbit during three space shuttle stints, became the first Black to be named deputy administrator for NASA in 2002. His honors include the Legion of Merit Defense Superior Service Medal, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal.



November 28, 1961–

◀ Syracuse University halfback **Ernie Davis** became the first Black to win the Heisman Trophy as the nation's Outstanding College Football Player on this day. At 6-foot-2 and 212 pounds, Davis was nicknamed "The Elmira Express."

He broke 10 of Jim Brown's football records at Syracuse University as a varsity halfback from 1959 to 1961. A native of New Salem, PA, he was a first-round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns after his graduation from Syracuse. He signed for an unprecedented \$80,000, but he was stricken with leukemia before he ever played a game in the National Football League. Davis died in May of 1963 at age 23 after a 16-month battle against the disease.



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Regina Carter Plays Priceless Paganini Violin During Special Concert At New York's Lincoln Center



▲ Jazz violinist-bandleader Regina Carter performs during a sold-out concert at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York. Carter performed using the 260-year-old Paganini violin. During its first trip to New York in three years, the rare instrument was flown from its high-security, vaulted home in Genoa, Italy, to the Big Apple under armed guard.

Jazz violinist Regina Carter recently played the 260-year-old Paganini violin during a special, sold-out performance at the Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York.

The priceless instrument was crafted by Guarneri del Gesù in 1743. It once belonged to Niccolò Paganini, the greatest classical violinist in history.

"I heard the audience gasp when I played it," Carter tells JET of her performing with the instrument, nicknamed "The Cannon" because of the

large, sonorous and dark-toned sound it produces.

Her performance at Lincoln Center marked the instrument's first visit to New York in three years.

Earlier that day during a press conference at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York, Carter played her instrument, a German violin, and "The Cannon" so that they could hear the difference in sound.

It is "much heavier and bigger," she says, than her instrument. That makes it that much more of a chal-

lenge to perform with.

"There is a lot of nervousness. It is difficult to play because the notes are in a different slot," she contends. "When it is not acting right, I feel like Paganini is messing with the player. Every stringed instrument is different. It has its own personality. It's like driving a car. Every car has a different feel."

Paganini bequeathed the violin to the city of Genoa, Italy, upon his death in 1840. Insurance for the violin estimates between the range of \$30 million and \$40 million. It is normally kept in a high-security vault in the Genoa city hall. After Carter's performance, it was escorted back to JFK airport for its return trip.

Carter is the first Black and the first jazz musician to play and record with the violin (JET, May 19, 2003). The instrument is usually only played by the winners of the famous Paganini competition.

Two years ago Carter was granted special permission by the City of Genoa to use the violin after pianist Werner "Vana" Gierig and his longtime friend, Andrea Liberovici, worked to make the historic connection.

"It taught me about working and looking at what you have right in front of you," she says. "Your friends can really help. You don't have to go outside yourself... This has been definitely a blessing. It taught me so much. This was a huge learning experience."

Carter first performed with the violin in Genoa in December 2001 as a ges-

ture of solidarity after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The audience at the event, titled *A Night of Healing*, gave her several standing ovations. Jazz had never been played on the instrument before.

"It was definitely a true blessing and an honor for the Italians to let me use it. It's like the universe said, 'This is your reward,'" she says.

After that unforgettable experience two years ago, Carter felt it a must to record her latest album, *Paganini: After A Dream*. Two armed guards, a violin maker and a member of the committee in charge weren't far when she recorded in the studio in November of 2002.

"This was a passion for me. I had to make this record. Sometimes obstacles will come your way, but you should never give up if you feel strongly about something."

Making music history isn't new for Carter. She began taking piano lessons at 2 and violin at 4. By the age of 12, Carter had already made history as a musician when the Detroit native was the youngest person to join the Detroit Civic Symphony.

The new CD and her historic accomplishment have introduced her music to a broader scope of listeners.

"I've reached an audience that hadn't been reached before. There was a cross-blend of people at the concert. History is being documented. I'm amazed at the comments and what it does. I've reached an audience outside the jazz community. We're all pretty shocked."



SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **Lucky In Love:** Ruben A. Howard II married Katrina R. Foard at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in West Point, MS. The bride, a graduate of Grambling State University and Texas Southern University, is a rating specialist for the Department of Veteran Affairs. The groom, a graduate of Jackson State University and Texas Southern University, is an inventory control analyst for Exel Logistics. They honeymooned on a Caribbean cruise and will reside in Houston.



▲ **Spiritual Bond:** Dr. Yetunde Aranmolate became the wife of Lateef Safore at Windermere United Methodist Church in East Cleveland. A graduate of Ohio State University and West Virginia State College, the bride is a pediatric resident at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. The groom, a graduate of Marshall University and West Virginia State College, is a research oncologist scientist at Cleveland Clinic Hospital. They will live in Cleveland.



◀ **Blessed Beginning:** Keith M. Harris and Shaurice N. Gilmore united in holy matrimony at Mount Olive AME Church in Fort Myers, FL. The bride and groom are both graduates of Florida A&M University. The bride is a coding supervisor at Florida Hospital. The groom is a pharmacist at Orlando Regional Medical Center. The loving twosome began their new life together by honeymooning in Negril, Jamaica. Orlando, FL, is where they will make their home.

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SOCIETY WORLD

▲ **Happiness For All Times:** Anthony Craig Hill pledged his eternal love to Crystal LaShawn Hayes during an enchanted, garden ceremony at Occasions by the Beach in El Segundo, CA. The bride is an attorney. She received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a juris doctorate from Cornell Law School. The groom is a television and film writer for ABC. He attended Texas Southern University. They will live in Carson, CA.



▲ **My Love, Sweet Love:** Patrick Jerome Ludley tied the knot with Monique Patrice Johnson at First Baptist Church North Tulsa in Tulsa, OK. The bride, an assistant controller for Quebecor World Inc., is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University. The groom, a senior performance and budget analyst for the City of Carrollton, is a graduate of Grambling State University. St. Lucia, West Indies, was the honeymoon spot. Dallas is where they will make their home.



◀ **Sensational Sixty Years:** Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Young of Memphis, TN, celebrated 60 years of marriage with family and friends during a dinner given by the couple's children. Mrs. Ewardia Young is retired from the Methodist Healthcare Systems in patient escort services. Her devoted mate of six decades is a retired production supervisor for Universal Life Insurance Company. They are the parents of eight, the grandparents of 13 and the great-grandparents of 10.

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Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Honors EBONY Associate Publisher Jeff Burns Jr. With Community Leadership Award

EBONY Magazine Associate Publisher Jeff Burns Jr. was presented the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund's (TMSF) Community Leadership Award during the organization's recent 16th Anniversary Awards Dinner at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers.

Burns was among four honorees at the gala held annually to honor leaders of industry, education and public service who have made significant contributions to higher education and to TMSF's mission.

TMSF provides scholarships and

programmatic support to students and financial support and other assistance to the nation's 45 public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Other honorees included Corporate Leadership Award Recipient Keith W. Vaughan, chairman, Firm Management Committee, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC; Alumni Leadership Award Recipient J.T. Childs, Jr., vice president, Global Workforce Diversity, IBM; and Education Leadership Award Recipient Dr. Edison O. Jackson, president



◀ *EBONY* Associate Publisher Jeff Burns Jr. (3rd, l) is congratulated by Johnson Publishing Co. President and CEO Linda Johnson Rice (c) and (l-r) Dr. N. Joyce Payne, founder of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (TMSF); Dwayne Ashley, president TMSF; the Hon. John Marshall, son of the late Thurgood Marshall and Virginia secretary of public safety; Virgis W. Colbert, TMSF Board chairman and Miller Brewing Co. executive vice president; and John Esposito, president and CEO Schieffelin & Somerset.

& CEO, Medgar Evers College, C.U.N.Y.

Acclaimed actress Diahann Carroll served as mistress of ceremonies for the black-tie affair which drew some 1,500 guests representing major corporations, organizations and the civic community, as well as TMSF recipients. Popular singer Stephanie Mills was the performing guest artist for the evening.

Prominent guests included former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins, Black Enterprise Magazine Publisher Earl G. Graves and wife, Barbara; TV weatherman Al Roker and actor Leon.

Burns, an alumnus of Howard University, a TMSF member institution, was cited for distinguished leadership in community service and civic activities, including the creation of a scholarship program to assist students entering historically Black colleges and universities.

His award presentation included

◀ *Mistress of ceremonies Diahann Carroll greets honoree Jeff Burns during Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Leadership Awards gala.*



▲ Other honorees saluted during the gala were (l-r) Dr. Edison O. Jackson, president and CEO Medgar Evers College, Education Leadership Award recipient; Keith W. Vaughan, chairman of the Firm Management Committee of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, Corporate Leadership Award recipient; and J.T. Childs, Jr., West Virginia State College alumnus and vice president of global workforce diversity, IBM Corp., Alumni Leadership Award recipient.

congratulatory video messages from JPC Publisher and Chairman John H. Johnson, and JPC President and CEO Linda Johnson Rice.

A 25-year employee of Johnson Publishing Co. (JPC), Burns was instrumental in the recent naming of Howard University's School of Communications in Publisher Johnson's honor.

In accepting his award from John Esposito, president and CEO of Schieffelin & Somerset, Burns cited famed graduates of HBCUs including Oprah Winfrey, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., and the late Justice Thurgood Marshall.

"The impact and influence of HBCU graduates are immeasurable

and that is why the work of the TMSF is so important to the future of our people," he said.

In addition, Burns announced the establishment of a journalism scholarship in his name at the Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communications.

Dwayne Ashley, president of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, Inc., said, "One of the cornerstones of our organization's success has been the collaborative efforts of our presidents, corporate partners, foundation partners and the commitment of our many supporters like the four individuals who we are honoring this year."

The event raised a reported \$1.2

million. Co-chairs for the dinner were James K. Clifton, chairman and CEO of the Gallup Organization; Michael Rhodes, executive vice chairman and chief marketing officer, MBNA America Bank, and Terry Barnett, president & CEO of Novartis Corp.

The Awards Dinner culminated a weekend of activities sponsored by the TMSF. They included the Third Annual TMSF Leadership Institute. The Institute's conference, titled "Navigating an Ever Changing Business World," helped equip students to pursue their dream jobs through résumé writing and interview skills workshops, classes and workshops on business etiquette, corporate survival and personal financial management.

In addition, the organization hosted its annual Founder's Volunteer

Awards Reception that recognized 14 corporate volunteers who have a distinguished record of service to TMSF and its member schools.

This year's honorees included: Sean Johnson, Vice President of Law and Business Affairs, MTV; Larry Knox, GM Executive Co-Director; Danae Davis, Director of Diversity and Staffing, Miller Brewing Company; Phyllis White-Thorne, Manager, Strategic Giving, Con Edison; Carolyn Harris-Burney, Vice President, African-American Market; Craig Senn, Attorney-at-Law, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice; Sheila T. Baynes, Executive Director, Newark Emergency Services for Families, Inc.; Derrick Warren, Senior Project Executive, IBM Global Services; Gwen Houston, Vice

▼ Addressing the estimated 1,500 celebrants during the TMSF Awards Dinner are the event's co-chairs (l-r) James K. Clifton, chairman & CEO of the Gallup Organization; Michael Rhodes, executive vice chairman and chief marketing officer, MBNA America Bank, and Terry Barnett, president & CEO of Novartis Corporation.



EDUCATION

► Among the celebrities enjoying the festivities is TV personality *Star Jones*.

President of Diversity, Aetna, Inc.; Linda Tests, Senior Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation; Enid Doggett, Vice President of Media Relations, formerly of Ketchum Public Relations Worldwide; Diane Fuchs, Attorney-at-Law, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice; Mitch Tuchman, Attorney-at-Law, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice; and Jacquelyn Austin, Attorney-at-Law, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice.

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, Inc., named for the late U.S. Supreme Court judge, is the only national organization of its type

▼ Award-winning performer *Melba Moore* and Democratic Presidential Candidate the Rev. *Al Sharpton* chat during the dinner.



that provides merit-based scholarships and program support to students who attend the nation's historically Black public colleges and universities.

Since its inception in 1987, TMSF has awarded more than \$50 million in scholarships and other educational support, enabling more than 5,000 students to attend public historically and traditionally Black colleges and universities.

The not-for-profit organization also provides internship programs and joins corporate and foundation partners in providing leadership training and support to students preparing for undergraduate and professional schools.



▲ **STORY TIME:** First lady and former librarian Laura Bush reads to second-graders Nairah Brown (l), Tytianna Marshall and their classmates at Shortlidge Academy in Wilmington, DE. Mrs. Bush, who visited the magnet school while campaigning for her husband, also touted the virtues of literacy and answered questions about life in the White House. She joked that the hardest part of her role as first lady was dealing with the media and noted one of the best things was seeing the furniture and art that belonged to other presidents. "When you look around, you're reminded all the time of the history of our country," she said.

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1. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS AND HOW TO ENTER: On November 29, 2003, watch the State Farm Bayou Classic (Southern University Jaguars/Grambling State University Tigers) on NBC-TV (8-2 PM EST/11 AM PST/7 PM CST) (check your local television listing for channel and exact show time). During the broadcast, four (4) six-digit codes (per quarter) will be displayed on screen. To enter you must correctly record the four (4) six-digit codes displayed each quarter.

Within twelve (12) hours after the broadcast conclusion of the State Farm Bayou Classic, visit www.sfbayou.com to register. Then follow the on-screen instructions to register and enter the four (4) correct six-digit codes that were displayed during the broadcast. All entries must be submitted no later than twelve hours after the broadcast conclusion of the State Farm Bayou Classic on November 29, 2003. Limit one entry per person.

2. WINNERS' SELECTION: Winners will be selected by D.L. Blair, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final, in a random drawing to be conducted on or about December 8, 2003 from among all eligible entries submitted containing the four (4) correct codes. In the unlikely event that there is an insufficient number of eligible entries containing the four (4) correct codes received in accordance with these rules, any prize(s) not awarded will be awarded in a random drawing from among all entries received. Winners will be notified by overnight mail. Limit one prize per person/household e-mail address. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received.

3. PRIZES:

GRAND PRIZE - An 8 day/7 night Caribbean Cruise for two on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Prize includes round-trip coach air transportation from the commercial airport nearest winner's residence to ports of embarkment/debarkment, cruise accommodations (double occupancy), (approximate prize value: \$2,353), value varies dependent upon winner's point of departure.

FIRST PRIZE - A 3 day/2 night trip for two to attend the 2004 State Farm Bayou Classic and the 2004 Battle of the Bands/Greek Step Show in New Orleans from November 26-28, 2004. Prize includes round-trip coach air transportation from the commercial airport nearest winner's residence, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), ground transportation to/from hotel & events, two tickets to the 2004 State Farm Bayou Classic and two tickets to the 2004 Battle of the Bands/Greek Step Show, (approximate prize value: \$1,336), value varies dependent upon winner's point of departure.

Method of travel selected at discretion of Sponsors and may affect prize value. Grand Prize is subject to all terms and conditions of Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines standard contract of passage. All travelers must execute a Release of Liability prior to ticketing and must possess required travel documents (photo ID, passport where applicable). If winner is considered a minor in his/her state of residence, Affidavit documents must be signed by minor's parent/legal guardian on behalf of minor. If a minor is selected as the guest of a Prize winner, winner must be minor's parent or legal guardian and must sign the Release of Liability on minor's behalf. Trips must be taken on dates specified by Sponsors. Travel is subject to availability and certain blackout dates may apply. Prizes consist of only those items specifically listed as part of the prize. Any other expenses not specified herein or being awarded are the sole responsibility of winners. Odds of winning will depend upon the number of eligible entries submitted.

4. GENERAL RULES: Open only to residents of the 48 contiguous United States and the District of Columbia who are 18 years or older as of November 29, 2003. Employees of EBONY magazine, State Farm, the National Broadcasting Company, Inc. ("NBC"), NBC Sports, Grambling State University, Southern University, Ford Motor Company, Coca-Cola, Southwest Airlines, United States Marine Corps, Hyatt Regency-New Orleans, BSE ("Sports Illustrated"), and their respective affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, advertising and promotion agencies and the immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible. Purchase or acceptance of a product/service does not improve your chances of winning. Void where prohibited by law. No substitution or transfer of prize by winner permitted. All federal, state and local income taxes are the sole responsibility of winners. All federal, state

and local laws apply. Winners will be required to complete and return, via a provided prepaid mailer, an Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability and if legally permissible, a Publicity Release within 5 days of notification. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. Return of any prize/prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. **INTERNET CAUTION: ANY ATTEMPT BY AN INDIVIDUAL TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE ANY WEB SITE OR UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THIS PROGRAM IS A VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL & CIVIL LAWS, & SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, SPONSORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY AND/OR SEEK DAMAGES FROM ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL TO THE FULL EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.** Sponsors are not responsible for late, lost, damaged, incomplete, illegible, or for faulty, incorrect or mistranscribed transmissions, incorrect announcements of any kind, technical hardware or software failures of any kind including any injury or damage to any person's computer related to or resulting from participating in or experiencing any materials in connection with the online portion of the competition, lost or unavailable network connections, or failed, incomplete, garbled or delayed computer transmission that may limit a user's ability to participate in the sweepstakes. Sponsors reserve the right to cancel or modify the sweepstakes if fraud, misconduct or technical failures destroy the integrity of the program; or if a computer virus, bug, or other technical problem compromises the administration, security, or proper administration of the program as determined by Sponsors/Judging agency/administrator, in their sole discretion. Sponsors reserve the right to freeze or prohibit the participation of an individual if fraud or tampering is suspected, or if the individual fails to comply with any requirement of participation as stated herein or with any provision in these Official Rules. In the event of termination of the sweepstakes, a notice will be posted online and a random drawing will be conducted from among all eligible entries received prior to the time of termination. In the event a dispute arises regarding specific individual entered to receive prize, entry will be declared made by the authorized account holder and any e-mail address to the website will also be the responsibility of the authorized account holder of the e-mail address submitted at the time of entry. "Authorized account holder" is defined as the natural person who is assigned to an e-mail address by an Internet access provider, online service provider or other organization that is responsible for assigning e-mail addresses for the domain associated with the submitted e-mail address. Participant may be requested to provide Sponsors with proof that the participant is the authorized account holder of the e-mail address associated with the account/submission. Proof of sending will not be deemed to be proof of receipt by Sponsors. Any use of robotic, automatic, programmed or the like methods of participation will void all submissions by such methods. In the unlikely event that the State Farm Bayou Classic broadcast and/or game is pre-empted, postponed, cancelled for any reason, a notice will be posted online and sweepstakes will be void. In the event the prize or any portion of the prize offered is discontinued or otherwise unavailable, a prize (or that portion of the prize if applicable) of equal or greater value will be delivered. Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to the Sponsors and their agencies to use winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and trade without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. Sponsors are not responsible for any typographical or other errors in the printing of the offer, administration of the sweepstakes or in the announcement of prizes. By accepting prize, winner and their guest agree to hold Sponsors, their respective directors, officers, employees and assigns, harmless against any and all claims and liability arising out of use or receipt of prize. Prize winners assume all liability for any injury or damage caused, or claimed to be caused, by participation in this promotion or use or redemption of any prize. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges.

5. For the names of prize winners, send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to: EBONY Magazine State Farm Bayou Classic, Attn: Promotion Department, 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605 to be received by December 10, 2003.

Tune in to NBC 2p.m. EST/1p.m. CST/11a.m. PST

Saturday, November 29, 2003

See page 51 for more information

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Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson Is Highest-Paid University President In The Nation

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, is listed as the highest-paid university president, public or private, in the nation, according to an annual survey conducted by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Dr. Jackson, who became the 18th president of the private Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in July of 1999, received \$891,400 in salary and benefits in the last fiscal year, in addition to more than a half-million dollars for serving on corporate boards, reports the New York Times.

The first Black woman to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Dr. Jackson has a Ph.D. in theoretical elementary particle physics and an S.B. in physics from the Cambridge school.

Prior to her current post, Dr. Jackson served as Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as a theoretical physicist at the former AT&T Bell Laboratories and as a professor of theoretical physics at



▲ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute President Dr. Jackson is the first Black woman to earn a doctorate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rutgers University.

As Rensselaer's president Dr. Jackson has made many accomplishments that include having raised more than a half-billion dollars for the institute, increasing school funding and hiring 127 new faculty members.

Number Of Blacks And Women Enrolled In Medical Schools On The Rise

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the number of African-American applicants and women of all races has increased in the nation's 126 accredited medical schools this school year, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

The number of African-American applicants rose nationwide by almost 5 percent to 2,483, but the number who actually enter medical school in 2003 declined by almost 4 percent to 1,089, the report states.

Overall the number of individuals,

men and women, applying to medical school increased nationally by 3.4 percent, from 33,625 for last year's class to 34,785 for the class of 2003.

The Association of American Medical Colleges states that the rise in applications reverses the negative trend that began after 1996 when the number of applicants to medical school peaked at 47,000.

Dr. Jordan Cohen, president of the Association of American Medical Col-

leges, attributes the boost to people who are looking for new career paths and says that "opportunities in other areas are not as great," according to the Chronicle.

Dr. Cohen added that racial and gender diversity are important in medical schools because of the increasingly diverse U.S. population and because it gives other students a multiracial and multicultural perspective and sensitivity.

Ray Charles Donates \$1 Million To Dillard University

Music legend Ray Charles recently donated \$1 million to Dillard University in New Orleans for the development of a program about Black culture.

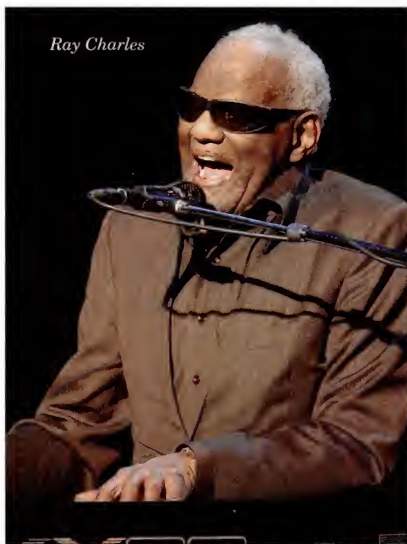
The donation will create an endowed faculty position and program devoted to the musical, culinary, artistic and linguistic contributions of Black Americans, according to Dillard spokeswoman Maureen Larkins.

Charles received an honorary degree in May from Dillard.

The 73-year-old singer donated the money in the name of the Robinson Foundation for Hearing Disorders, a laboratory he founded in 1987 for the treatment and research of hearing problems.

A native of Albany, GA, the 12-time Grammy-winner donated \$2 million to Albany

State University in 2002 and in 2000 he donated \$2 million to Wilberforce (OH) University.



Ray Charles



EDUCATION

■ **COMMEMORATING 81 YEARS OF 'GREATER SERVICE, GREATER PROGRESS':** Helen J. Owens (3rd, r), International Grand Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., is joined by (l-r), Tonia Dew (Delta Sigma), Barbara Ellerson (Epsilon Nu Sigma), W. Jeanine Daugherty (Theta Chi Sigma), Sandra Kelly (Eta Xi Sigma) and Alma Harrell (Zeta Omicron Sigma), the hosting basilei of the sorority's Founders' Day celebration, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, Crystal Ballroom, in Chicago. The gala marked the first time that five Illinois chapters of the organization convened in Chicago for a joint Founders' Day. Below, Grand Basileus Owens addresses the audience at the momentous affair. She is also the chairman of the Council of Presidents for the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). The NPHC Council of Presidents consists of the nine national presidents of the nine affiliate organizations of NPHC. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., organized on November 12, 1922, became the first African-American organization on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis. As a leading national service organization, the sorority's aim is to enhance the quality of life within the community.



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the week's best photos

■ **BEST BUDDIES:**
TV actress Holly Robinson Peete takes her children Rodney Jackson and Ryan Elizabeth to the recent premiere of *Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat* at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles.

Bill Jones

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beauty of the week

MYNGNON GAUSE
is an accountant
from Riverdale, GA.
She enjoys acting,
modeling and
reading.

Photo by
Raquel Riley





■ **SHOW MUST GO ON:** Supermodel Naomi Campbell (with her arm in a sling after she suffered an injury) arrives on stage with her mother, Valerie Campbell, for a popular German TV show in Austria.

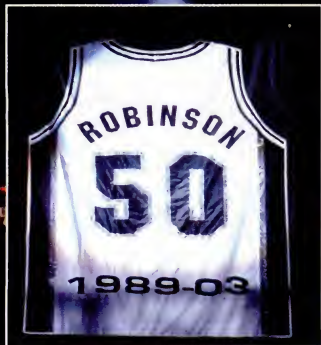
Ronald Zak



■ **MAGIC-FILLED NIGHT:** Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the famed Jackson music family, joins her son, singer Jermaine Jackson, as they greet UniverSoul Circus ringmaster Casual Cal (r) and his sidekick Zeke during circus festivities at Hollywood Park in Inglewood, CA.

Bill Jones

Spurs Honor Robinson, Retire No. 50 Jersey



David Robinson was saluted in the spotlight one last time in San Antonio as he stood at center court to watch his No. 50 jersey being lifted into the rafters of the SBC Center in San Antonio.

When the black shroud was removed from the white jersey, the crowd exploded with cheers in a standing ovation as fans began to chant Robinson's name.

▼ Robinson jokes with former teammate Tim Duncan during the ceremony. The two led the Spurs to the NBA title last season.



"This is a moment you always dream of but never think will come," he said during the postgame ceremony to retire his jersey. "It's overwhelming. It's awesome."

Robinson, 38, retired last season after he helped the Spurs win the team's second NBA title.

In his 14-year pro career, all with the Spurs, the Admiral averaged 21.1 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. He owns the team's records for games (987), points (20,790), rebounds (10,497), blocked shots (2,954) and steals (1,388).

Robinson was the NBA's MVP in 1995 and voted among the league's top 50 all-time players.

"This is my final farewell," he said, beaming. "This has been a wonderful journey."

Former San Antonio Spurs center David Robinson thanks the crowd during a postgame ceremony to retire his No. 50 jersey at the SBC Center in San Antonio.



Reds Outfielder Dernell Stenson Shot To Death; Three Charged In Case



Dernell Stenson

Cincinnati Reds' outfielder Dernell Stenson recently was kidnapped in the robbery of his SUV; he was shot when he attempted to escape from his vehicle and then run over, police said.

Stenson, 25, who was in the Arizona Fall League, was found dead in the Phoenix suburb of Chandler after a night out with friends.

The outfielder made his major-league debut this season and played 37 games for the Reds. He hit .247 with three home runs and 13 RBI.

Reginald Riddle, 19, and David Griffith, 20, were charged with first-degree murder, robbery and kidnapping in the death of Stenson. Kevin Riddle, 43, Reginald Riddle's half-brother, was charged with theft, hindering prosecution and attempted hindering prosecution. A fourth suspect in the case, Robert Maye, was being held on suspicion of hindering prosecution at JET press time.

According to court records, Maye told police he was with his cousin Kevin Riddle when Riddle received a phone call from Griffith the day Stenson was found dead.

The court records state Maye and Riddle met Griffith and Reginald Riddle at an apartment where Maye told



Facing charges in the murder of Dernell Stenson are (clockwise from top, l) Reginald Riddle, David Griffith and Kevin Riddle. A fourth suspect, Robert Maye, was being held at press time.



police he found Griffith wearing only one shoe and the other shoe was found in Stenson's SUV; Kevin Riddle was later arrested driving the vehicle.

Maye, 32, rented a motel room for Reginald Riddle, but after Maye talked with police, he led authorities to an apartment where he had previously taken Reginald Riddle, the records say.

Reginald Riddle was arrested there and later admitted involvement in Stenson's death.

Chandler police believe the motive for Stenson's death was robbery of the vehicle, said Chandler police spokesman Sgt. Mark Franzen. Police said Stenson's hands were bound during the robbery and there was an apparent struggle in his vehicle.

Police aren't calling the crime a carjacking because it hasn't been established that Stenson was in the vehicle when it was stolen, Franzen said. Stenson was buried Nov. 10 in his hometown of LaGrange, GA.



▲ **FIRST BLACK IN THE HOCKEY HALL OF FAME:** Grant Fuhr speaks at the 2003 Hockey Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Toronto, where he became the first Black player to be enshrined into the hall. The Canadian goalie helped capture five Stanley Cups during his 10-year dynasty with the Edmonton Oilers in the 1980s. In his 19 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL), Fuhr accumulated 403 wins, which ranks sixth on the all-time wins list. The six-time All-Star also won the Vezina Trophy as the league's top goaltender in 1988 when he led the NHL with 40 wins and 4,304 minutes played.

Willis And Berroa Named Baseball Rookies Of The Year



Dontrelle Willis



Angel Berroa

Florida Marlins' pitcher Dontrelle Willis and Kansas City Royals short-stop Angel Berroa were recently voted the National League and American League Rookies of the Year, respectively.

Willis, who received 17 first-place votes, went 14-6 with a 3.30 earned run

average for the world champions last season. The high-kicking left-hander also made the All-Star team. "It's a huge honor," the 21-year-old Willis said. "I'm still on this World Series high. It's still unreal to me that we won. It's all starting to sink in."

Berroa, 25, who received 88 points in total, edged New York Yankees outfielder Hideki Matsui for the AL award, the league's closest rookie race

in 24 years. Matsui had 84 points.

"I was astounded," Berroa said from his home in the Dominican Republic capital of Santo Domingo. "Super-happy is the ideal expression to describe how I feel about receiving this honor."

Berroa finished the season with an impressive batting average of .287 with 17 home runs, 73 RBI, 92 runs scored and 21 stolen bases.

▼ **FIGHTING FOR THEIR SON'S HONOR:** Green Bay Packers wide receivers coach Ray Sherman speaks to reporters regarding the death of his 14-year-old son, Ray Sherman Jr., as his wife, Yvette Sherman, consoles their daughter Erica (far, l) during a news conference in Green Bay, WI. Ray Sherman Jr. died May 18 after he shot himself in the head with his father's pistol in the family garage. Brown County Medical Examiner Al Klimek initially ruled the teen's death a suicide but later changed the manner of death to undetermined. Sherman and his wife filed a petition to have their son's death ruled an accident and asked a judge to change Sherman Jr.'s death certificate. At JET press time, a court date had not been set. "We will do whatever it takes to clear our son's name and fight for his honor," Ray Sherman said.



Roy Jones Reclaims Light Heavyweight Title



◀ Roy Jones Jr. celebrates after he beat Antonio Tarver at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas to win the WBA/WBC light heavyweight titles.

Associated Press had it an even 114-114. The Las Vegas crowd loudly booed the decision.

Jones regained the title he vacated to make his historic move up to win the WBA heavyweight title from John Ruiz in March, but in this fight Jones seemed in danger of his first real loss in his 14-year career.

In a fight full of trash-talking and taunting, Jones appeared tired early, and said having to lose weight to come down from heavyweight took its toll.

"I was very tired because of the weight," said Jones (49-1, 38 KOs). "It was a tough fight because of the weight. I had to lose 25 pounds, and it was a tough 25 pounds to lose."

The 34-year-old Jones, who had to drop from 193 in his last fight with Ruiz to the 175-pound limit, had vowed to make Tarver (21-2, 17 KOs)

Roy Jones Jr. recently regained the light heavyweight title, but it wasn't easy.

Taking as much as he could handle from the light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver, Jones won the 175-pound title by majority decision. The ringside judges scored the match 117-111, 116-112 and 114-114. The

pay for that. Jones, a Pensacola, FL, native, said the fight would be his last at light heavyweight, and that he planned to end his career with a heavyweight fight against Mike Tyson sometime next year.

"One mega-dollar heavyweight fight with Tyson and then I'm done," said Jones.



Jones lands a left hook to Tarver during the 10th round of the title bout. Jones had to lose 25 pounds to make the 175-pound limit.

Alex Haley's Family Looks To Promote 'Roots' Author Through NASCAR



Alex Haley



George Haley

The family of the late *Roots* author Alex Haley plans to keep the Pulitzer Prize-winner's legacy alive through auto racing, a sport striving to reach out to Blacks.

Haley's brother, George, a former U.S. ambassador to Gambia and executor of Alex Haley's estate, recently announced the family's plans to form a NASCAR Nextel Cup team in 2004. This would be only the second Black-owned team in the series.

The Haley estate will partner with Sam Belnavis, the first Black full-time owner of a Nextel Cup team. Belnavis, who is a partner with Travis Carter in a separate venture that operates BelCar Motorsports, will play a large role in the success of Alex Haley Racing.

George Haley, who is a Washington lawyer, said in the *Charlotte Observer* that the goal of the estate is to promote "Alex Haley's spirit and legacy of family, human connection, brotherhood and understanding."

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Fall '03 Itinerary

(Partial Listing)

SHOW LOCATION

DATE & TIME

Akron, OH Greystone Hall	Sat., 11/22 8:00 PM
Toledo, OH Stranahan Theater	Sun., 11/23 7:00 PM
Elyria, OH Lorain Palace Civic Center	Mon., 11/24 7:30 PM
Dayton, OH Dayton Convention Center	Fri., 11/28 8:00 PM
Indianapolis, IN Indiana Convention Center RCA Dome 500 Ballroom	Sat., 11/29 8:00 PM
Louisville, KY Memorial Auditorium	Sun., 11/30 7:00 PM
Evansville, IN Executive Inn-Hotel & Conference Center	Wed., 12/03 8:00 PM
St. Louis, MO Blanche Touhill Performing Arts Center	Sat., 12/06 8:00 PM
Kansas City, MO Lyric Theatre	Sun., 12/07 6:00 PM
Wichita, KS Hughes Metropolitan Complex	Tues., 12/09 8:00 PM
Columbia, MO Historic Missouri Theater	Wed., 12/10 8:00 PM
Madison, WI Alliant Energy Center	Fri., 12/12 8:00 PM
Kankakee, IL Kankakee Junior High School	Sat., 12/13 8:00 PM
Bloomington, IL Illinois State University Bone Student Ctr. Ballroom	Sun., 12/14 3:00 PM

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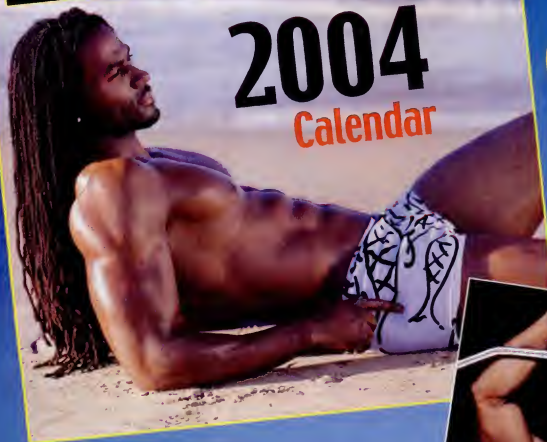
▲ **BIG BROADWAY DEBUT:** Chester Gregory II does a dance routine and sings a tune in the Broadway musical *Hairspray* at the Neil Simon Theatre in New York. Gregory has reason to feel on top of the world these days because this production marks his Broadway debut. He first won fame while performing in the original musical *The Jackie Wilson Story* in Chicago. The musical, written, produced and directed by Jackie Taylor, originated in the Windy City at Taylor's Black Ensemble Theater (JET, March 10). It toured the U.S. and ended at the world-famous Apollo Theater in Harlem, NY. Gregory, a Gary, IN, native, won numerous awards for his portrayal of the late soul singer in the three-year run of the musical. His much-lauded work portraying Wilson helped to land him a role in *Hairspray*.

► **RECORD BREAKERS:** Billed as the world's most pierced woman, Elaine Davidson from Brazil, who has 1,093 piercings, and Stephen Taylor from Coventry, England, the owner of the world's longest tongue (3.78 inches), joke together at London's Tate Britain gallery to celebrate the book of *Guinness World Records* 100th millionth copy in print. Davidson and Taylor were among the many record-breakers who attended a reception hosted by Guinness World Records founder Norris McWhirter.



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It started out as a routine checkup. You took your blood tests, got your cholesterol and cardiovascular evaluations, even a flu shot. Later in the week your doctor contacts you to discuss an “abnormality” found during one of your tests and wants to see you in a few days for “possible counseling.”

“What could it be?” you ask, slipping into an inexorable panic, as you mentally catalog diseases while playing pick-a-plague in your head: “Isn’t there a history of hypertension and diabetes in my family? And didn’t my cousin get diagnosed with cancer last month?”

At this point even a die-hard atheist just might throw up a prayer—and ask for the prayers of others—when confronted with the frailty of his own

IS FAITH HEALING BETTER THAN A TRIP TO THE DOCTOR?

life. But can prayer be the cure for what ails you? Is faith healing better than a trip to the doctor?

“I believe that they need to go hand-in-glove,” says Randall W. Maxey, M.D., Ph.D., of Los Angeles, who is president of the National Medical Association (NMA). “There should not be a separation between the two. In the world as I see it, physicians are often vehicles through which God works, and in my practice, I practice a blend that encourages people to have faith that they will be healed. “I am a Christian and I strongly believe that faith plays a role in healing,” Maxey affirms.

He continues: “Not only do I give



traditional pharmacological medications that an M.D. would give, but I also make sure that I do pray for my patients," says Maxey. "In many cases I pray with them, and I myself have seen many instances where it was clear that it was the faith component that led to their healing more so than just the medications that we give."

And according to recently released information concerning faith and healing, the good doctor may be right.

Studies at several medical centers conclude that prayer and faith help in the recovery from heart attacks, drug addiction, stroke, alcoholism and depression. Research from the University of Miami showed AIDS patients who became long-term survivors were more frequently engaged in religious worship and involved in volunteer work.

Also, Duke University has just released a study of 4,000 men and women of different faiths, 65 or older. The study found that the relative risk of dying was 46 percent lower for those who frequently attend religious services. It also found that those who attend religious services have healthier immune systems.

According to a University of Maryland School of Medicine study, a technique known as non-contact therapeutic touch, prayer on someone's behalf and other kinds of "distance healing," may have a positive effect on patients. The findings were published in the June 6th edition of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Of the 23 studies analyzed, 11

examined therapeutic touch, five studied the effectiveness of prayer, and seven tested a variety of other unconventional treatments.

The highest number of positive results was found in the studies involving therapeutic touch, a controversial practice founded on the belief that the human body has an energy field. Of the 11 studies involving therapeutic touch, seven showed at least one positive treatment effect.

"I have seen in my own practice people we had set for surgery because they might have a malignant mass... and they have refused to undergo that procedure until they go into their own prayer. And 24 hours later, what we had documented by C.A.T. scans, MRI scans and X-ray, is gone. This is something I have seen for myself," attests Maxey.

According to Willie S. Williams, Ph.D., president of the Association of Black Psychologists, religion and medicine run parallel to each other and sometimes intersect.

"The philosophical statement of the mind-body dualism made famous by the French philosopher Descartes has made its mark on both religion and psychology," states Williams. "In religion, you have dualistic forces of good



▲ Randall W. Maxey, M.D., Ph.D., president of the National Medical Association, believes in prayer.



▲ Dr. Atty. Paris M. Finner-Williams says *When people pray to God for healing, they should expect to be healed.*



▲ Willie S. Williams, Ph.D., president of the Assoc. of Black Psychologists believes *spirituality helps healing.*

versus evil, in psychology you have mind versus body, and in medicine you have mental versus physical health.

“Most issues are viewed in this dualistic fashion; however, there is a third— and I think a more important component—it is the spiritual component. In my view the spiritual component takes precedence over both mind and body, it deals with powers and forces beyond the explainable aspects of physical science or man’s ability to reason. It is powered by faith and doesn’t rest on reliable proof or physical evidence.”

Sensitivity to religion and health may put medical professionals like Maxey and Williams ahead of the curve when it comes to helping their patients who—in one form or another—put their faith in God for healing.

A Gallup poll has shown that 95 percent of the U.S. population believes in God, and almost 80 percent of people over the age of 65 are members of a church. A number of studies have shown that individuals who

pray regularly and attend religious services stay healthier and live longer than those who rarely or never go to a church, synagogue or mosque.

And more doctors are taking notice. Psychologists at Brigham Young University have compiled a handbook, used by the American Psychological Association, to help doctors become more empathetic to spiritual beliefs and to guard against disrespecting their patients’ religions, which could discourage patients from seeking

professional help.

Dr. Atty. Paris M. Finner-Williams, founding chairperson of the Black African-American Christian Counselors Division, believes that spiritual people with strong ties to their religion should pray for themselves, ask intercessors—others who pray on their behalf—to “stand in the gap” for them, and expect a miraculous healing from God.

“If the doctor gives me a diagnosis of cancer or high blood pressure, then that’s what I’m praying to be removed. And I can walk in faith that my condition is going to be improved and the illness be removed. And I’m going to ask intercessors to pray for me, that my cancer will go into remission and that it will be eliminated,” states Finner-Williams, who is also co-founder of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

A pragmatic, Finner-Williams says prayer is OK, but it should be coupled with a trip to the doctor. “The healing may come through the med-

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ications or through nothing at all, but pray as to what you should do; and pray *expecting* to be healed."

According to Association of Black Psychologists President Williams, "[Faith healing] has been stated and practiced in varying faiths: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and traditional African [customs] to name but a few.

"People can have varying degrees of faith, they can believe totally in the power of their God to be healed and realize that a change is occurring in their body and minds. Or they can realize God is putting them into the hands of trained healers who have the knowledge and skills to cure their condition," he concludes.

"Most of the major religions I know believe that faith in God has everything to do with your survival, and your future, and your well-being. [Though] it may not be some dramatic event where you throw away your crutches," states Maxey. "I believe that there is not a separation between faith and health care. I believe they are one item, and some people happen to understand one more than the other. The most successful people are those that can integrate the two."

One thing seems to be clear, according to the experts: If you don't put any faith at all in the possibility of miraculous healing, then it might be time to pencil in an appointment for another physical. Just to be on the safe side.

-SCOTTY BALLARD

movies to see



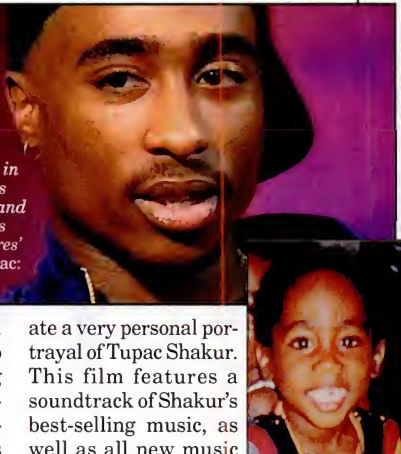
TUPAC: RESURRECTION (Rated R) Paramount Pictures

Made in collaboration with Tupac Shakur's mother and former Black Panther Afeni Shakur, this documentary is an intimate portrait of Tupac Shakur that celebrates his life and is

entirely told in his own words. The film carefully mines video archives to expose the storytelling that Shakur did during interviews and in personal conversations throughout the happiness and the sadness of his childhood, the ups and downs of his professional career; his romances and his life-altering mistakes, and finally through the lessons he learned. It takes a look at the artist's gifts, passions and conflicts. It also takes a look at those who influenced him early on. This inspirational life story features never-before-seen concert footage, private home movies and excerpts from Tupac's poetry and journals, all of which serve to cre-

► *Afenie Shakur is executive producer of new documentary on her son Tupac in Paramount Pictures movie Tupac: Resurrection.*


Tupac Amaru Shakur was born in New York City on June 16, 1971, and was killed September 13, 1996, in Las Vegas. He recalls, in his own words, his childhood (inset) and rise to fame in this Paramount Pictures' documentary Tupac: Resurrection.



ate a very personal portrayal of Tupac Shakur. This film features a soundtrack of Shakur's best-selling music, as well as all new music by **Biggie Smalls**, **Eminem** and **50 Cent**.

—SYLVIA P. FLANAGAN





Playwright Tyler Perry is making people take notice of the urban theater stage play genre with his well-liked character Madea.

height, 6-foot-5, or his resonant, baritone voice. Madea lovingly gives everybody a hard time, including Perry.

"I have to talk so high for two hours and the costume is really, really, really hot. I'm soaking wet under there," Perry bemoans to JET, smiling as he describes the overweight body suit with large, sagging breasts that helps transform him into Black America's favorite theater grandmother. "I don't like putting on makeup every day, and the wig aggravates me. It used to take hours for me to get ready. Now I can be ready in 20 minutes."

Though many Black playwrights have a following with their urban theater stage plays, none are quite like the marriage of Madea and Perry.

Perry, a writer, actor, director, producer and set designer, has taken this

theater genre to another level with plays *I Can Do Bad All By Myself*, *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, *Madea's Family Reunion* and the current touring show, *Madea's Class Reunion*.

His Madea character has become more famous than its creator. She even has celebrity fans! "I was listening to Tom Joyner on the radio one morning and he was talking to Aretha Franklin," recounts Perry.

TYLER PERRY:

MEET THE MAN BEHIND THE URBAN THEATER CHARACTER MADEA

Anyone who has recently attended an urban theater stage play likely knows all about Madea. Mention the playwright Tyler Perry and most people will link him to a character named Madea, a brutally honest, don't-take-no-mess, purse-carrying, pistol-packing granny.

Since 2000, Perry has been the man who has brought the 68-year-old Madea to life. You can overlook that he's only 34, but you can't ignore his

"She said that when she's on the bus traveling, she's watching Madea. She's watching the tapes. To hear that was unbelievable."

Stage productions starring Madea sell out, eight nights a week, everywhere Perry performs. His seven plays, to date, have grossed \$5 million

in box-office sales. Videos featuring Madea can't stay on shelves.

"Everyone knows her. We watch with nostalgia when we think about this type of grandmother. Madea being a southern term for mother dear," Perry says. "She's not around anymore. When she was around, everybody's kid belonged to

◀ A clean-shaven Perry is dressed as Mable Simmons, known to avid urban theatergoers as Madea. The candid granny character has kept theater houses packed and videos stores can't keep videos that feature her.



▶ Madea has become such a crowd favorite that she was placed in four of Perry's plays. The current, Madea's Class Reunion, has the lively grandmother taking a hilarious journey to her 50th class reunion.

▶ The 1993 play *I Know I've Been Changed* was Perry's first venture into theater. He played Mr. Joe, a 63-year-old landlord. The show, which also featured Ann Nesby, became a sellout hit at theaters in 1998.





▲ Perry first introduced the Madea character in 2000 with the play *I Can Do Bad All By Myself*, which featured Tyga Graham and Kisha Grandy. "I wanted to flip the script," he says. "I saw Eddie Murphy doing *The Nutty Professor* and I thought, 'Man, what if I could create a character based on my mother and aunt?' That's where Madea came from. I wanted to do a light comedy."

her. She kept the entire neighborhood straight. Now we're in a different time and different age where grandmothers are in their early and late 30s. People are looking for this Madea, the 68-year-old who doesn't care about being politically correct. She doesn't care what you think about her. She's going to tell the truth."

Perry first introduced Mable Simmons, better known as Madea, in the play *I Can Do Bad All By Myself* in 2000. The character was a hit. The following year she earned Perry a Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actor, Non-Resident Production. It was a first for urban theater.

"I was up against Fosse, which is totally unheard of. That was an amazing thing to happen," says Perry. "What that did was give the rest

of this 'legitimate' theater an opportunity to say, 'Maybe before we criticize this, let's take a look at it.'"

Traveling Black stage plays first made their mark in the '80s with Shelly Garrett's *Beauty Shop*. Other playwrights followed like Michael Matthews and David E. Talbert. Perry arrived on the scene of what was being called "chitlin' circuit" plays in 1993 with a production called *I Know I've Been Changed*.

For several years he struggled doing this work. He was often fired from jobs because his employers wouldn't allow him time off to rehearse and travel. The former bill collector found himself homeless for three months in 1997 while he tried to see the play through.

"I couldn't eat. I was living in my car, with a friend or at one of those

pay-by-the-week hotels. It was a nightmare for me," he says.

Ready to throw in the towel, his life changed in 1998. A performance at the House of Blues in Atlanta, which he nearly turned down because he was so discouraged, was the defining moment.

"It was the coldest day. The heat went out. I was cold and shaking and trying to put on my makeup. I said, 'This is it. I'm not doing this anymore.' Then I looked outside and saw a line of people wrapped around the corner waiting in the cold to see me. God said, 'I tell you when it's over, you don't tell me.' From that moment on I've been going 100 percent. It sold out everywhere."

Madea, a mixture of his mother and an aunt, has also appeared in the play *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*. He is planning to do the movie version of the production.

The interesting part about Perry's theater journey is that he never set foot on a stage before 1993. He found his passion through his childhood pain.

A native of New Orleans, Perry has two older sisters and a younger brother. He says that he endured years of abuse as a child by his father "whose answer to everything was to beat it out of you." Perry says he would "go places in his mind" following beatings.



▲ Why Did I Get Married When He Proposed? is another Perry play currently touring. It features Kelly Price and Carl Perry. Perry is not in the play.

One day he wanted to end it all.

"It was a cry for attention," says Perry, pointing to the two small, half-faded scars on both wrists where he tried to commit suicide. "I was pretty young and totally frustrated."

He learned of a new way to channel that anger while watching Oprah Winfrey's talk show one day. She spoke of how it was cathartic to write things down that you've been through.

Perry began to write. In his late teens, he penned *I Know I've Been Changed*, a story about adult survivors of abuse.

Two years ago Perry says he got the opportunity to thank Oprah. He appeared on a show about those who listened to what their lives were saying to them and their lives changed. "It was amazing. Things came full circle. My life was speaking to me through her," he says.

He has even forgiven his father. "I don't have any animosity. I'm not angry. Everything that happened was

supposed to because it brought me to this place to tell my story to millions."

So far Perry has been the only playwright in urban theater to have had two shows running in New York at the same time, *I Can Do Bad All By Myself* and *Woman, Thou Art Loosed!* He did another play, *Behind Closed Doors*, that was described as a production more typical of Broadway. Both *Woman, Thou Art Loosed!* and *Behind Closed Doors* were collaborations with Bishop T.D. Jakes.

Still, even with his accomplishments, many don't acknowledge the Black traveling stage plays as real theater.

"If you set out to please everybody, you please nobody. I look at the 20,000 to 30,000 people who see my work come with stress in their life and with what's real. Some things

aren't real that people are talking about. They think it's not legitimate theater, it's not reality. What reality is is what people are going through day to day."

He continues, "What makes your art any better than ours or what I do? Is it because 'the establishment' has told you this is the way it's supposed to be or how we do it? What makes that better than what's real to us as Black people?"

Perry credits Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson with helping him to stick with his passion.

"He told me to keep going with what I wanted to do. I had a conversation with him before I ever did a play. I said a lot of people frown on this theater. He said that he didn't. He said, 'If that's your gift, then that's what you do and do it.' Those words

stuck with me. If that man, *Seven Guitars*, can say that to me, then how can you have a problem with what I do?"

Once homeless, Perry now lives on a 12-acre estate that he designed in a suburb of Georgia. He's come a long way and wants to encourage others through his work.

"People need laughter. They need a way to feel better. I want my work to be a mirror to motivate and inspire...I'm so glad that God knows what is around the corner, even when we lose hope and lose faith."

—MARGENA A. CHRISTIAN

◀ Following his inner spirit and listening to his inner voice has helped Perry to change the scope of urban theater. "I'm seeing Black families at my plays. I don't know of any other place other than church where Black families are coming together. I've been able to reach people."

JET

top20 ALBUMS



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1. BLOOD IN MY EYE

Ja Rule (Def Jam)

2. SPEAKERBOXXX/THE LOVE BELOW

Outkast (Arista)

3. CHICKEN *N* BEER

Ludacris (Disturbing Tha Peace)

4. STROKE OF GENIUS

Gerald Levert (Elektra)

5. LOON

Loon (Bad Boy)

6. TOO HOT FOR T.V.

Bad Boy's Da Band (Bad Boy)

7. JACKPOT

Chingy (Disturbing Tha Peace)

**8. LUTHER VANDROSS LIVE:
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL**

Luther Vandross (J)

9. GRAND CHAMP

DMX (Ruff Ryders)

10. HARD

Jagged Edge (Sony Music/Columbia)

11. NU-MIXX KLAZZICS

Tupac (Death Row)

12. 2:35 PM

Calvin Richardson (Hollywood)

13. KINGS OF CRUNK

Li'l Jon & The East Side Boyz (TVT)

14. MY & MY BROTHER

Ying Yang Twins (TVT/Collipark)

15. THE SENIOR

Ginuwine (Epic)

16. DANGEROUSLY IN LOVE

Beyoncé (Sony Music/Columbia)

17. SO DAMN HAPPY

Aretha Franklin (Arista)

18. MORE STREET DREAMS

Fabulous (Desert Storm)

19. EMOTIONS

Will Downing (GRP)

20. MH

Marques Houston (T.U.G.)



television



'The Tracy Morgan Show'

Pictured (l-r) **Katt Williams**, **Heavy D**, **Bobb'e J. Thompson**, **Tamala Jones**, **Johnson Witherspoon**, and **Marc John Jeffries** join **Tracy Morgan** who stars in his own comedy as a hardworking family man pursuing happiness with streetwise wit, attitude and wisdom. He is married with two boys and owns his auto garage on "The Tracy Morgan Show," (Tuesday, December 2 at 8 p.m., ET) on NBC. Others scheduled to appear this week include:

Whoopi Goldberg on "Harry For The Holidays," (Thursday, November 27 at 8 p.m., ET) on NBC.

David Alan Grier on "Life With Bonnie," (Friday, November 28 at 9:30 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Don Cheadle in *The Family Man*, (Saturday, November 29 at 8 p.m., ET) on NBC.

James Pickens, Jr. on "The Lyon's Den," (Sunday, November 30 at 10 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Marsha Thompson/James Lesure on "Las Vegas," (Monday, December 1 at 9 p.m., ET) on NBC.

Richard T. Jones on "Judging Amy," (Tuesday, December 2 at 10 p.m., ET) on CBS.

Damon Wayans/Tisha Campbell Martin/Jennifer Nicole Freeman/George O. Gore II/Parker McKenna Posey on "My Wife and Kids," (Wednesday, December 3 at 8 p.m., ET) on ABC.

Victor Williams on "The King of Queens," (Wednesday, December 3 at 9 p.m., ET) on CBS.

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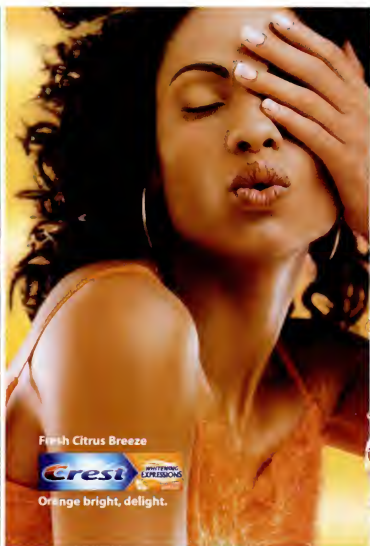
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